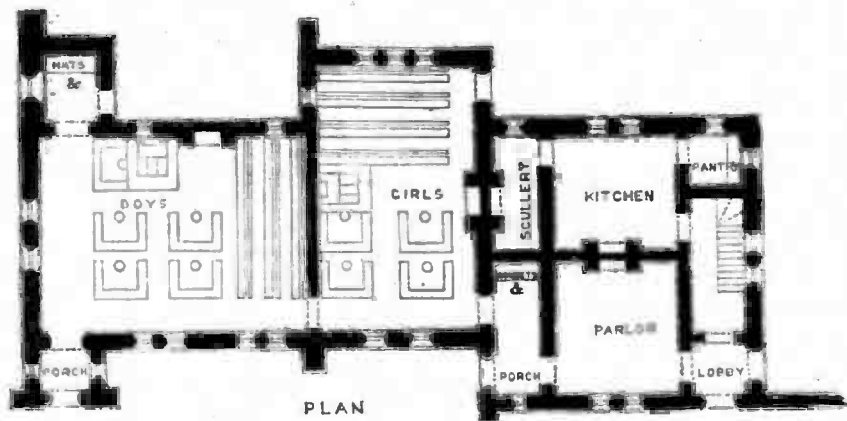


PLAN OF SCHOOLS AND RESIDENCE.



SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL-HOUSES.

Mr. H. E. KENDALL, jun., has recently published a very pretty volume of designs, for parochial and national schools, which is ushered into the world with all the advantages of nice drawing, showy effects, and tasteful borders.* It comprises plans, elevations, and perspective views of seven schools which have been erected (namely, the Childerditch School; Poor Boys' School, Bury St. Edmund's; Commercial School at same place; Poor Girls' School also at same place; the Battle and Langton Schools; Willenden School; and Stanmore School); and five designs similarly set forth, but not carried out. They are mediæval and Elizabethan in design, some in stone, and some half timbered; and though two or three of them may be open to cavil, on the ground that they present a mixed character, they all display much skill in arrangement and considerable fancy.

With Mr. Kendall's concurrence, we have copied what we consider the best design in the book, an unexecuted project of Early English character, uniting the schools and master's house. It purports to give accommodation to 130 boys and 110 girls, and to be constructed of Kentish rag, with tooled ashlar dressings: the cost is estimated at 720*l.*, exclusive of seats and desks.

We look upon this book as a well-timed volume, and trust it will have the effect of leading other architects to publish designs, to counteract the effects of the melancholy exemplars put forth by a former "Committee of Privy Council on Education."

Our author says, in his introduction,—
"With the present zeal on the part not only of the Government and the clergy, but also of the enlightened public, in promoting the great cause of education, it must be evident that a noble opportunity for the exhibition of national architecture, and for contributing to its general diffusion, now presents itself; and it is especially incumbent on all members of the profession, by the exercise of taste and judgment, to give character to school buildings of all descriptions. Much may be done by reference to old works, by picturesqueness of outlines, by harmony of composition, and by the judicious application of various materials, however common in themselves. Something of external comeliness should be assigned as a matter of course to the humblest of such erections: under the direction of good taste, usefulness of purpose, and beauty of design, may be made mutually to subserve each other, even when the latter is but a secondary consideration."

It is a common error, and one not confined to the uneducated classes, to suppose that beauty of design must necessarily be more expensive than deformity or plainness, and the error is lamentably obvious in the number of

mean structures abounding throughout the country, alike deficient in design and execution; it is quantity of material, and not the form of its application, judicious or otherwise, that induces expense."

The aforesaid committee of Privy Council, and a certain off-hand gentleman, who seemed to rule them, and made architects chop about their designs to suit his notions of taste, and may do so now, for what we know to the contrary, have much to answer for in this respect.

GAS IN GUERNSEY.
AN INSTRUCTIVE INSTANCE.

EXTREME causes may be expected to display such extreme effects as will betray their own covert specific operation, even in other circumstances less extreme. We have always maintained, and indeed it is but common sense to maintain, that the excessive price which an overweening sense of self-interest too often tempts or impels a monopolist to demand for his goods, in general constitutes the most inimical obstacle to the promotion of his own best interests; and that, on the contrary, the lowest figure at which a profit can be turned at all on articles adapted to an extensive and universal consumpt, is that very figure which will not only immeasurably expand a comparatively limited demand, but as immensely increase the gross amount of profit, and promote the sterling interest of the enterprising manufacturer. It unfortunately happens, however, that the eyes of self-interest are but too often blind to the possibility of a lower price paying while a higher barely pays, or fails to pay at all. But in the history of the gas movement we have actually seen a Company, such as the Sunderland, declaring that a reduction of the charge for a street lamp from 45*s.* to 35*s.* "could not possibly pay," while competition subsequently proved that even 15*s.* could and did pay! It is not our object at present, however, to enlarge on this particular topic. We merely desire to point attention to one of the inevitable consequences of a high price, consequences which, after such exposures as those at Sunderland, Liverpool, and elsewhere, we hope no longer to find subverted into occasions for resisting immense reductions beneficial to all, as those at Sunderland, Liverpool, and elsewhere have been.

The gas made in Guernsey is charged at the enormous and unsaleable rate of 12*s.* per 1,000 cubic feet, and what is the consequence? That in a locality possessing a town-parish population of 16,000 to 17,000, gas is so expensive a luxury that not even the streets are lighted! and that the shopkeepers even, with pipes and apparatus for it up in their premises, can only afford to light their shops with it on a Saturday evening! To be without a gas-work in these days of enlightenment is to be in a very primitive state indeed—but to have a gas-work, and still to be in the same primitive state, shews there must be something radically

wrong. The only matter of astonishment here, however, is the utter blindness of the gas proprietor to his own interest. Doubtless his argument is this—why, even 12*s.* scarcely pay me, how then can I reduce, without a positive loss, especially with a population who only use it of a Saturday night, or not at all, even in their streets? a topsy-turvy argument indeed! Who doubts, but him who is thus blinded by an overweening sense of selfish interest; that the denizens of the Guernsey gas dominions have enough of taste for the luxury which their administration taxes so unconscionably, and sufficient inclination to make use of it even to profusion? Now that other great sovereigns have come to see the increased advantage, to the revenue itself no less than to the comfort and contentment of the people, in reducing arbitrary and indefinite taxation on articles suitable for popular or universal luxury or every day necessity and use, we certainly are astonished to find this enlightener (?) of an otherwise untaxed isle in the very vortex of surrounding civilization, thus standing in his own light no less than in the light of his constituents—injuring his own interests, in short, and the interests and convenience of others, no less assuredly than if he were to order the guardians of the stop-cock of his own main pipe to turn the article of consumption all but off every evening, at the very time while every shopkeeper or householder waited with his lighted match ready to begin that consumpt which the establishment of his own works might have otherwise induced the belief that he too desired to see in full and unrestricted progress.

Let our own metropolitan companies and many others take warning, and be enlightened by an instructive case like this. True, few now charge such a monstrous price for gas as 12*s.* per 1,000 feet; and as to our own companies, they are at length giving way a little to the influence of the pressure from without, but let all remember, that gas is a light that can well and easily be adapted for truly universal use, that as yet not a fiftieth of that universality has been anywhere reached, and that it can and will be effected only by a tempting reduction of the expense of it, which will not only place it within the reach, but force it, as it were, into the very hands of ALL—even of the poorest and most humble. And besides, they ought to know, or at all events now let them learn from the greater and more extreme and positive folly of one of their class, that the lesser or more negative folly of their own, when multiplied by their own immensely greater field of diffusion, amounts to a folly in the aggregate, vastly greater than even the instructive one in question.

As to the Guernsey gas proprietor himself, —a resident in our own metropolis, as we happen to know,—it is hoped that ere long, if not now, he will open his eyes, at least, to his own pecuniary interest. And if not, we are well assured by the Guernsey Sun, while calling the

* Designs for Schools and School-houses, parochial and national. By H. E. Kendall, jun., F.S.A. John Williams and Co., 141, Strand.